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EARTHLY CONCERN



Climate progress remains elusive for Biden on Earth Day

President Joe Biden arrives to speak at Seward Park on Earth Day, Friday, April 22, 2022, in Seattle. From left, Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., Rep. Rick Larsen, D-Wash., Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., Rep. Suzan DelBene, D-Wash., Biden, Rep. Kim Schrier, D-Wash., Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell, Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash., and Rep. Derek Kilmer, D-Wash.

Associated Press
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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK						
SUNDAY: TICO KOCK STEEL DRUM 4 - 6pm	MONDAY: ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	TUESDAY: JEAN PAUL SAXOPHONIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	WEDNESDAY: CARLOS ORLATE SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	THURSDAY: MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	FRIDAY: RICKY THOMAS GUITAR 7 - 9pm	SATURDAY: ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm
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Climate progress remains elusive for Biden on Earth Day

By J. BOAK, C. MEGERIAN
and M. DALY
Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — With a backdrop of flowering trees, it was a setting fit for the signing of major environmental legislation. Even Seattle's notorious clouds parted as President Joe Biden stepped up to speak Friday.

But when he sat down at a small desk with the presidential seal that had been set up for the occasion, there was no new law to sign, just an executive order directing federal officials to keep better track of trees in national forests.

The gap between the scale of the global warming crisis and the president's initiatives seemed wider than ever on Earth Day. Although last year's infrastructure legislation had some climate policies, such as building more charging stations for electric cars, many of Biden's most ambitious proposals remain stalled in Congress.

Biden seemed eager to be signing something other than his executive order.



This photo provided by California State Parks shows the Pioneer Tree one of the few remaining old-growth coastal redwoods at Samuel P. Taylor State Park, Calif., on Thursday, March 24, 2022, after it collapsed from a fire.

"My pen is ready," Biden said in Seattle's Seward Park. "Get some of these bills to my desk."

He criticized Republicans for opposing climate action and hinted at his frustration with Sens. Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona,

although he didn't mention them by name. Within the Democratic caucus, he said, "there's only two senators who occasionally don't vote with me." The lack of unanimity among Democrats and the steadfast resistance from Republicans in the

evenly divided Senate has blocked hundreds of billions of dollars in tax credits for clean energy. Environmental advocates question whether the country can hit Biden's ambitious goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions without such policies, and scientists warn that the world faces extreme heat, drought and weather unless fossil fuels are phased out swiftly.

With so much of his agenda in doubt, Biden instead drew a sharp contrast with his predecessor, former President Donald Trump, who often mocked climate change as he unraveled the country's fight against global warming during his time in office.

"We've reached the point where the crisis on the environment has become so obvious, with the notable exception of the former president, that we really have an opportunity to do things we couldn't have done two, five, 10 years ago," Biden said.

Biden said he was staking his hopes on an up-and-coming generation.

"Every time I get a little down ... I just turn on the television or take a look at all the young people," he said. "This younger generation is not going to put up with all this stuff. No, they're

not." Biden spoke to some of that generation at his second stop of the day, Green River College, just south of Seattle.

The auditorium included scores of students, plus faculty and local elected officials, and Biden used the moment to promote an agenda that goes far beyond the environment.

The speech was a collage of laws he's passed and what he still needs congressional support to achieve. He discussed college funding, health care prices, child care expenses, corporate taxes, high speed internet and the importance of nursing.

Biden also warned that Republicans remain determined to repeal the Affordable Care Act more than a decade after it was signed into law by President Barack Obama.

"We need to keep this fight up," he said.

Biden singled out the high cost of insulin for treating diabetes, which he wants to limit through new legislation.

"There's no excuse. None," he said. "We're not asking drug companies to do anything they can't afford."

The executive order signed by Biden on Friday directs federal land managers to define and inventory mature and old-growth forests nationwide within a year. The order requires the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to identify threats to older trees, such as wildfire and climate change, and develop policies to safeguard them.

The order does not ban logging of mature or old-growth trees, the White House said.

Biden used his Earth Day events to reassert his environmentalist credentials when his administration has been preoccupied by high oil and gasoline prices following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Gas costs have been a drag on Biden's popularity and created short-term political pressures going into this year's midterm elections. □

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Lawmakers want U.S. to set up field hospitals for Ukraine

By NOMAAN MERCHANT

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A bipartisan group of U.S. lawmakers is calling on the Biden administration to establish field hospitals near Ukraine's border and ramp up medical support for what's expected to be a monthslong war of attrition waged by Russia.

Forces aligned with Ukraine have suffered thousands of casualties since Russia invaded on Feb. 24. And Russian strikes on hospitals and other non-military targets have killed large numbers of civilians and strained Ukraine's ability to care for sick and wounded people. The Associated Press has documented three dozen Russian attacks on medical facilities, hitting medics, patients and even newborns. More than a dozen House members wrote Friday to Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin asking for the U.S. to fill gaps in Ukraine's medical infrastructure. The steps recommended by the group include opening field hospitals in eastern Poland, providing Ukraine with armored ambulances and taking some of the sick and wounded to the U.S. military's Landstuhl regional hospital in western Germany. "We're going to have to really step up in a really big



Ambulance paramedics move a civilian wounded in shelling onto a stretcher to a maternity hospital converted into a medical ward in Mariupol, Ukraine, March 2, 2022.

Associated Press

way to relieve the combat wounded and civilian casualties that will be coming in the weeks and months ahead," said Rep. Jason Crow, a Colorado Democrat who recently visited Poland and other countries in the region.

Rep. Joe Wilson, a South Carolina Republican, said in a statement that "we must remain united and provide Poland and our other NATO partners with the necessary medical and healthcare assistance to alleviate the suffering of the Ukrainian people."

With diplomatic efforts mak-

ing little public progress so far, most observers believe the war in eastern Ukraine could go into the summer. President Joe Biden has committed to the U.S. ramping up its support for Ukraine while not sending U.S. troops to Ukraine and avoiding actions the White House sees as drawing Russian President Vladimir Putin into a direct conflict with Washington. Deploying U.S. doctors and medics to eastern Poland could be risky if there's a strike near the border.

Crow said he supported Biden's decision not to

send troops or establish a no-fly zone over parts of Ukraine to limit the risk of escalation with Russia. But providing medical support should not be seen as escalatory, he said.

After failing to take Kyiv and other major cities across Ukraine, Russia has shifted its forces into a battle focused on Ukraine's south and east. Putin appears to be focusing on a boomerang-shaped front through much of Ukraine's Donbas region, bombarding military sites as well as hospitals and other known shelters for civilians.

Ukraine has held out against Putin's offensive longer than much of the world expected. An estimated 2,000 troops remain holed up inside a sprawling steel plant in the key port city of Mariupol, which Russia is close to taking after having bombed and shelled it for weeks. Biden on Thursday announced an additional \$1.3 billion in new weapons and economic assistance. Even hundreds of miles away from the front line, field hospitals in eastern Poland staffed by U.S. and Western personnel could ease the burden on Ukraine and "make sure there's sustainability to this conflict," said Crow, a former Army Ranger.

"The Ukrainians just do not have the capacity to support tens of thousands of combat wounded over the course of months," he said. Marine Corps Lt. Col. Anton T. Semelroth, a Pentagon spokesman, said the Defense Department since the war began has provided first aid kits and tourniquets to Ukraine, and "we are considering what additional assistance could be provided."

State Department spokesman Ned Price, asked about Ukraine's medical needs, noted that the U.S. is providing "the Ukrainian government with resources it can use as it sees fit." □

Officials: Mark Meadows was registered to vote in 3 states

By MEG KENNARD

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Mark Meadows — a former chief of staff to President Donald Trump who was removed from North Carolina voter rolls earlier this month — is still a registered voter in two other states, according to officials and a published report.

Chris Whitmire, a spokesperson for the South Carolina Elections Commission, told The Associated Press the former Republican congressman and his wife registered as voters in the state in March 2022.

"That's when he became active," Whitmire said, noting that neither Meadows had yet cast a vote in the state.

"From our perspective, it just looks like any new South Carolina voter."

The South Carolina registration was first reported by The Washington Post, which noted that Meadows had been a registered voter simultaneously in three states — the Carolinas and Virginia — until North Carolina removed him from its rolls earlier this month. Meadows remains a registered Virginia voter, the pa-

per reported. An email sent by The Associated Press to the Virginia Department of Elections was not immediately returned Friday.

Mark and Debra Meadows bought a home on picturesque Lake Keowee for \$1.6 million in July, according to records for the property, which was listed on their South Carolina voter registration records.

The former North Carolina congressman appeared in South Carolina earlier this week with members of the state Legislature's newly formed Freedom Caucus, an offshoot of a similar con-



Former White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows listens during an announcement of the creation of a new South Carolina Freedom Caucus based on a similar national group at a news conference on Wednesday, April 20, 2022 in Columbia, S.C.

Associated Press

servative group that Meadows helped found on the federal level while serving in the U.S. House.

A representative for Meadows declined to comment Friday on the South Carolina voter registration. □

LGBTQ leader is key in blocking Kansas ban on trans athletes

By JOHN HANNA
AP Political Writer

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — As state lawmakers moved to ban transgender kids from girls' sports, Kansas' most visible LGBTQ-rights lobbyist recently said during an interview in a Statehouse corridor that conservatives don't mind if kindergartners "have their genitals inspected."

The politically needling comment was bold enough to make Tom Witt's point, and loud enough for a lobbyist supporter of the ban to hear as she walked by. It was also classic Witt: Boisterous. Engaged. And well-targeted.

Witt is a key reason Kansas is unlikely to join a growing number of states this year with a ban, despite Republican supermajorities in its Legislature. With lawmakers returning Monday from a spring break, supporters don't yet have the two-thirds majorities to override Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly's veto of their bill. They didn't last year, either.

Witt, 60, is executive director of Equality Kansas and a Democratic consultant. During 18 years at the Statehouse, he's spotlighted conservatives' bills so that unwanted publicity prompts Republican leaders to disavow them or discourages GOP-led committees from even holding hearings. Others describe him as relentless in pursuing just enough "no" votes when it counts, and was influential enough in the



Tom Witt, the executive director of the LGBTQ-rights group Equality Kansas, speaks at a rally inside the Statehouse Monday, March 7, 2022 in Topeka, Kan.

Associated Press

state Democratic Party to help push it to the left. He's even let his health slide. In 2017, he ignored growing fatigue to successfully lobby against requiring transgender students to use facilities associated with their genders assigned at birth — then had a heart attack and bypass surgery. As for this year's bill, he said unnamed Republicans told him they "really hate" it before voting for it anyway. He said he's bitter that they might have considered the political cost of voting no. "This is life and death for some kids," he said. "This is not trivial. This is not politics." Witt plans to retire from activism, lobbying and consulting by year's end, having mentored younger,

self-described progressive lobbyists. Democratic state Rep. Stephanie Byers, the state's first elected transgender lawmaker and a retired Wichita band director, credits Witt with connecting her to national groups and making media interviews easier to navigate during her 2020 campaign. Kari Rinker, a friend and American Heart Association lobbyist, said he taught her how to fundraise and work with a nonprofit board. But Witt is sometimes profane and often pugnacious, even with friends. As for lawmakers, he said, party doesn't matter: "If they vote against LGBT rights, I'm going to go after them."

Brittany Jones, the conservative lobbyist who was walking by Witt's recent hallway interview, begins her recollection of their Statehouse introduction in 2019 with, "I believe he's made in the image of God just like I am."

"As soon as he found out who I worked for, he dropped my hand, walked away and wouldn't speak to me," said Jones, policy director for the conservative group Kansas Family Voice. Witt doesn't dispute that.

As Witt fights to keep Kansas from following at least 15 other states in banning transgender athletes from female school and college sports, some Kansas lawmakers are conflicted.

State Sen. David Haley, a Kansas City Democrat, voted no earlier this month but said "reasonable" constituents see the bill as common sense. He was the deciding vote last year against a veto override, giving a speech weighing both sides before voting no — as Witt sat in the main visitors' gallery, visibly on edge.

"You know, it's kind of like he's a Marine Corps drill sergeant when he is committed to the advocacy for his ideology," Haley said. "It's like, 'Everybody line up. This is the way it's going to go.'"

The Kansas measures have applied to K-12 students, and a few lawmakers cite that as a problem. Witt said elementary schools would be forced to physically inspect children as young as 5 to settle disputes over transgender kids competing against other girls.

The bill's text doesn't say exactly how disputes would be resolved, and Haley called Witt's argument "a little bit beyond belief." State Rep. Barbara Wasinger, a Republican from western Kansas, said Witt's argument is diverting attention from what she sees as the real issues, fair competition and scholarship opportunities for young women. But Witt sees this year's proposals triggering bullying and suicides. He pointed out a scar on his left cheek and said it's from being attacked and cut with a knife in a high school bathroom in the 1970s. □



Emily Sirisue jumps up to show her support with other Seattle Starbucks baristas after the vote comes in to unionize the Starbucks roastery on Capitol Hill, Thursday, April 21, 2022 in Seattle.

Associated Press

Workers unionize at flagship Seattle Starbucks roaster

SEATTLE (AP) — Starbucks workers at the coffee giant's flagship roastery in Seattle voted Thursday to form a union, the chain's latest location to form a collective bargaining unit. The Seattle store voted 38-27 to unionize.

Workers United said 26 Starbucks locations have unionized nationwide. The Starbucks Reserve and Roastery in the Capitol Hill neighborhood is the busi-

ness's second to unionize in its hometown of Seattle.

"As we have said throughout, we will respect the process and will bargain in good faith. We hope that the union does the same," Reggie Borges, a spokesman for Starbucks, said in a statement.

Starbucks has multiple flagship stores. The Seattle outlet joined the one in New York in forming a union.

"A big part of it is just that

we don't have a seat at the table, we don't have a voice in our workplace," said Liz Duran, an operations lead at Starbucks. "People have been pushed to the edge more and more and more throughout recent years, and with the breaking point being over, the COVID pandemic really just bringing workers to a point where you realize the power that we really do have." □

War in Ukraine spurs bid to take a closer look at U.N. vetoes

By JENNIFER PELTZ

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Two days into Russia's attack on Ukraine, a majority of U.N. Security Council members voted to demand that Moscow withdraw. One thing stood in their way: a veto by Russia itself.

It was the latest in decades of vetoes on issues ranging from the Korean War to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to climate change that at least temporarily stymied the council that was designed to be the U.N.'s most potent component.

A round of venting followed over the veto power afforded to just five of its 15 members: China, the United States, Russia, France, and Britain.

Each has used that power over the years.

Proposals to change the council's structure or rein in vetoes have sputtered for more than half a century. But now, a new approach simply subjecting vetoed matters to scrutiny by the full U.N. membership appears to be gaining traction.

Spearheaded by Liechtenstein, the measure has more than 55 co-sponsors, including the U.S. The 193-member General Assembly is due to consider the proposed resolution Tuesday.



U.N. Security Council members, left to right: Britain's UN Ambassador Barbara Woodward, U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, and Albania's UN Ambassador Ferit Hoxha, applaud in the United Nations Security Council, Friday, Feb. 25, 2022.

"This is really an important initiative," said Thomas Weiss, a City University of New York Graduate Center political science professor and Chicago Council on Global Affairs distinguished fellow who specializes in U.N. politics. To him, the proposal promotes transparency and challenges the idea that a few powerful countries can tank Security Council initiatives without so much as an explanation. "It does, in important ways, suggest that the veto is not sacrosanct," he said.

The proposal wouldn't limit

vetoed, but they would trigger public debates in the General Assembly. Whichever country or countries had cast a veto would be invited to say why.

The assembly wouldn't have to take or even consider any action. Regardless, the discussion could put veto-wielders on the spot and let a raft of other countries be heard.

It aims "to promote the voice of all of us who are not veto-holders, and who are not on the Security Council, on matters of international peace and secu-

rity because they affect all of us," said Liechtenstein's U.N. ambassador, Christian Wenaweser.

While the General Assembly got a broad membership and agenda, the council got more power. Its resolutions are legally binding, if sometimes ignored nonetheless, and can entail military action (i.e., assembling peacekeeping forces with troops contributed by various countries.)

Vetoed arose quickly. So did frustration. By the end of 1946, the assembly asked the council "to make every

Associated Press

effort" not to let vetoes hinder prompt decision-making.

By now, more than 200 different Security Council proposals have been vetoed, some by multiple countries, according to U.N. records. The subjects were as sweeping as reporting on weapons stockpiles and as specific as the governance of a part of the Indian Ocean nation Comoros.

The Soviet Union/Russia has cast the most vetoes by far, followed by the United States. Fewer still have been cast by Britain, China and France.

Countless other ideas were never brought to a vote because of an expected veto.

All that has engendered laments that the council's sometime paralysis undermines its legitimacy and public faith in the U.N. And Russia's invasion of Ukraine has only brought those grievances more into focus. "We are dealing with a state that is turning the veto in the United Nations Security Council into the right to die," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy told the council via video April 5. Saying the group "simply cannot work effectively," he called on members to remove Russia, reform or "dissolve yourself and work for peace." □

France issues arrest warrant for disgraced auto tycoon Ghosn

PARIS (AP)—French prosecutors have issued an international arrest warrant for disgraced auto tycoon Carlos Ghosn, who fled Japan in 2019 for Lebanon in a gripping escape.

The prosecutor's office in the Paris suburb of Nanterre said Friday that it issued the warrant for the former head of Nissan and Renault and four other people based on an investigation opened in 2019 into money laundering and abuse of company assets.

Prosecutors are investigating millions of dollars in alleged suspect payments made between the Renault-Nissan alliance and

Suhail Bahwan Automobiles (SBA), a vehicle distributor company in Oman. The former head of the Nissan-Renault alliance fled to Lebanon in 2019, while out on bail facing financial misconduct charges in Japan. He denies wrongdoing. Ghosn said he learned about the new warrant Friday via the media, and noted that he's barred from leaving Lebanon anyway. "I'm ready to defend myself," he told France's BFM television.

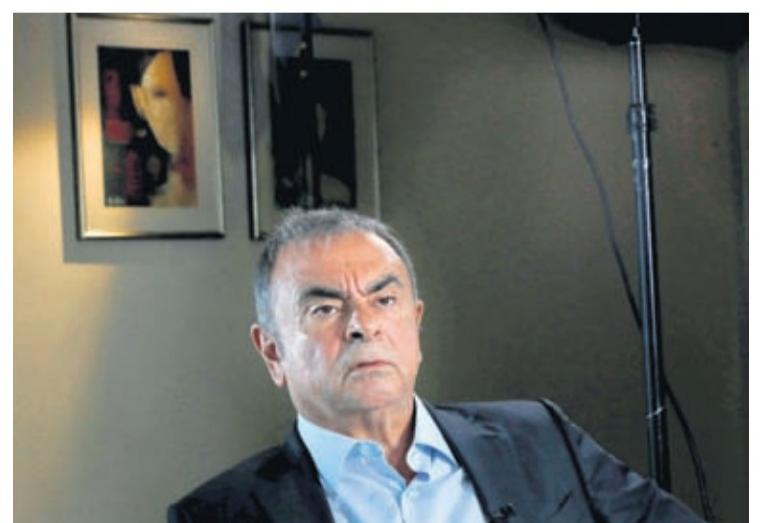
He repeatedly insisted that he did not receive any money from the Oman distributor and that there was "no embezzling."

The Nanterre prosecutors' office described this as the next step in the ongoing investigation, one of two separate cases involving Ghosn in France.

In an interview last year with The Associated Press, Ghosn was confident, energized and determined to fight to restore his reputation.

A statement sent Friday to the AP from his PR team called the French warrant "surprising," and suggested that it was ineffective as Ghosn "is subject to a judicial ban on leaving Lebanese territory."

Lebanon does not extradite its citizens.



Former Nissan executive Carlos Ghosn speaks during an interview with The Associated Press, in Dbayeh, north of Beirut, Lebanon, Tuesday, May 25, 2021.

Associated Press

Ghosn has citizenship in Brazil. □

French accuse Russian mercenaries of staging burials in Mali

By SAM MEDNICK

Associated Press

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso (AP) —

The French military has released videos appearing to show Russian mercenaries burying bodies near an army base in northern Mali, which it says is part of a smear campaign against the French who handed the base to Malian forces earlier this week. Aerial surveillance images taken by the French military on Thursday morning and provided to The Associated Press show what appear to be 10 Caucasian soldiers covering approximately a dozen Malian bodies with sand 4 kilometers (2.5 miles) east of the Gossi military base in the country's north, according to a French military officer who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the press on the matter.

In the video one of the soldiers appears to be filming the scene. The Caucasian soldiers in the video are believed to be members of the Wagner Group, a Russian mercenary force, the officer said.

Several tweets with pictures of the bodies have been posted on accounts that support Russia or fake accounts created by Wagner, the officer said. The tweets blame the French for the killings and the burials, according to the French of-



This image taken from a video shows soldiers burying bodies near an army base in northern Mali.
Associated Press

ficer. One tweet from an account called Dia Diarra, allegedly created by Wagner, said: "This is what the French left behind when they left base at #Gossi. These are excerpts from a video that was taken after they left! We cannot keep silent about this!"

The French army transferred control of the Gossi base to Malian soldiers on Tuesday, in what the French said was a safe, orderly and transparent manner. Later that day a "French sensor observed a dozen Caucasian individuals, most likely belonging to the Wagner Group," and a detachment from the Malian army arrive

at the Gossi site and unload equipment, said the French military in a confidential report that was seen by AP. Mali's army spokesman Col. Souleymane Dembele said that a team has been dispatched to Gossi to investigate, adding "it is still early for us to react on this case." The French military said the move to discredit the French forces operating in northern Mali is part of a coordinated campaign of multiple information attacks on them that has been going on for months. "The Wagner Group and the Malian Armed Forces appear to be taking disregard for human life to new

levels in Mali," said Alex Thurston, assistant professor of political science at the University of Cincinnati in the United States. "Anti-French sentiments, however, reflect more than just Russian disinformation. The Malian junta and Wagner are trying to harness those frustrations, but they did not create them," he said. French troops have been a major presence in Mali since helping to dislodge jihadi rebels from strongholds in northern Mali in 2013. But the extremists' attacks on civilians and the military have continued as the rebels have pushed south. The ongoing

violence has prompted numerous anti-French protests in the capital.

Earlier this month foreign soldiers thought to be the Russians working with the Malian army were accused of killing an estimated 300 men — some of them suspected Islamic extremist fighters but most civilians — in Moura in central Mali, according to Human Rights Watch. It was the worst single atrocity reported in Mali's 10-year armed conflict against Islamic extremists, according to the group which said it interviewed several witnesses about the killings.

It's unclear where the bodies seen in the video Friday came from. The French military official said they might have possibly been taken from near Hombori town, approximately 90 kilometers (56 miles) from Gossi, where there had been fighting a few days earlier, but he could not confirm it. The apparently staged graves can be seen as the latest example of Russia's disinformation campaign to damage France's reputation and it also reflects badly on Mali's army, which must have been aware of the Russians' actions, said Rida Lyammouri, senior fellow at the Policy Center for the New South, a Moroccan-based organization focused on economics and policy. □



A vendor shows packs of cooking oil at his stall at a market in Jakarta, Indonesia, Sunday, April 17, 2022.

Associated Press

By EDNA TARIGAN

Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) —

Indonesia will ban exports

of cooking oil and its raw materials to reduce domestic shortages and hold down skyrocketing prices,

Indonesia to ban exports of cooking oil to reduce shortages

President Joko Widodo announced Friday, a day after hundreds of people protested in the capital against rising food costs. The ban begins next Thursday and will continue for an undetermined length of time, he said.

"I will continue to monitor and evaluate the implementation of this policy so that the availability of cooking oil in the country is abundant and at an affordable price," Widodo said in a statement.

The announcement came three days after the At-

torney General's Office announced a corruption investigation involving a senior Trade Ministry official and three palm oil executives.

Attorney General Sanitiar Burhanuddin said the ministry official is suspected of issuing export permits for crude palm oil and its derivative products that resulted in domestic shortages and sharply higher prices for cooking oil.

The government issued a policy earlier this year obligating all palm oil exporters to ensure that adequate

supplies are available in the domestic market and that costs do not follow sharply rising international prices.

Hundreds of people marched in Jakarta on Thursday to protest soaring food and oil prices. They demanded the government reduce prices of fuel and basic foods, including cooking oil.

Indonesia and Malaysia are the world's largest exporters of palm oil, which plays an important role in their economies. They account for 85% of global palm oil production. □

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Kremlin pursues more cases against critics of Ukraine war

Russian authorities have opened a criminal case against prominent opposition activist Vladimir Kara-Murza Jr. for allegedly spreading "false information" about the country's armed forces, his lawyer said Friday.

Russian media reported that similar charges were being drawn up against outspoken tech executive Ilya Krasilshchik, the former publisher of Russia's top independent news site, Meduza. The moves against the two Kremlin critics are part of a widening crackdown against individuals speaking out against Russia's war in Ukraine.

Russia adopted a law criminalizing spreading false information about its military shortly after its troops rolled into Ukraine in late February. The offense is punishable by up to 15 years in prison. Human rights advocates so far have counted 32 cases targeting critics of



Vladimir Kara-Murza, Russian opposition activist, arrives to lay flowers near the place where Russian opposition leader Boris Nemtsov was gunned down, in Moscow, Russia, on Feb. 27, 2021.

Associated Press

the invasion.

Kara-Murza is a journalist and a former associate of late Russian opposition leader Boris Nemtsov, who was assassinated in 2015,

and oligarch-turned-dissident Mikhail Khodorkovsky, who was jailed for years in Russia. Kara-Murza himself was hospitalized with poisoning symptoms twice, in

2015 and 2017.

Lawyer Vadim Prokhorov told reporters that the false information case against Kara-Murza cited a March 15 speech to the Arizona

House of Representatives as the basis for the latest charges.

In March and early April, the activist made a series of public addresses in which he denounced Russia's actions in Ukraine. In an April 11 interview with American television network CNN, he described the Kremlin as "a regime of murderers."

Kara-Murza was detained hours after the interview and jailed for 15 days for disobeying a police officer. Prokhorov said his client had been due to appear in court for an appeal hearing Friday but instead was taken in for questioning at the Russian Investigative Committee headquarters. Prokhorov said Kara-Murza has maintained his innocence.

The spokesperson for a Moscow court said investigators have petitioned to place Kara-Murza in pre-trial detention for an initial period of two months. □

Rights Commission urges El Salvador to respect rights

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights called on the government of El Salvador Thursday to respect human rights, after authorities declared a state of emergency and rounded up 14,000 suspected gang members. The arrests often appear arbitrary, according to the commission, part of the Organization of American

States. "Many of the detentions have been carried out illegally, arbitrarily and through the use of violence," the commission said in a statement. Detainees are often picked up "for belonging to criminal groups. Gang members held at Salvadoran prisons have been put on reduced food rations, denied mattresses and frog-marched around. The state of emergency

declared in late March restricts the right to gather, to be informed of rights and have access to a lawyer. It extends to 15 days the time that someone can be held without charges.

The commission warned the government that even with the decree, "its power is not unlimited, because it has the duty at all times to act in accordance with applicable rules and respect



Heavily armed police guard the streets in downtown San Salvador, El Salvador, Sunday, March 27, 2022.

Associated Press

the rights of all of those under its jurisdiction."

Rights groups have expressed concerns that in-

nocent people are being caught up in sweeps targeting the notorious violent street gangs. □

Alhambra Casino honors its distinguished employees in 2021



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30 YEARS

35 YEARS

10 YEARS

STAR SUPERVISOR

15 & 20 YEARS

STAR CREW MEMBER

MANAGEMENT TEAM



5 YEARS: Eric Arnoud, Angel Vilchez, Rudolph Vorst, Lidia van der Linde, Mayra Cole

10 YEARS: Alvin Boekhoudt, Edrick Croes, Meliain Loefstop, Carlos Maduro, Julissa Rijke, Johannes ten Have, Maruska Wouters

15 YEARS: Stella Luidens, Julia Maduro, Junior Rafini, Carlos Wester

20 YEARS: Aldrick Croes, Lourdes de Cuba, Nilca Enser, Arnold Kelkboom, Evan Boson, Dianira Ras

30 YEARS: Haidee Godoy, Ronald Kelly

35 YEARS: Rudolf Schwengle



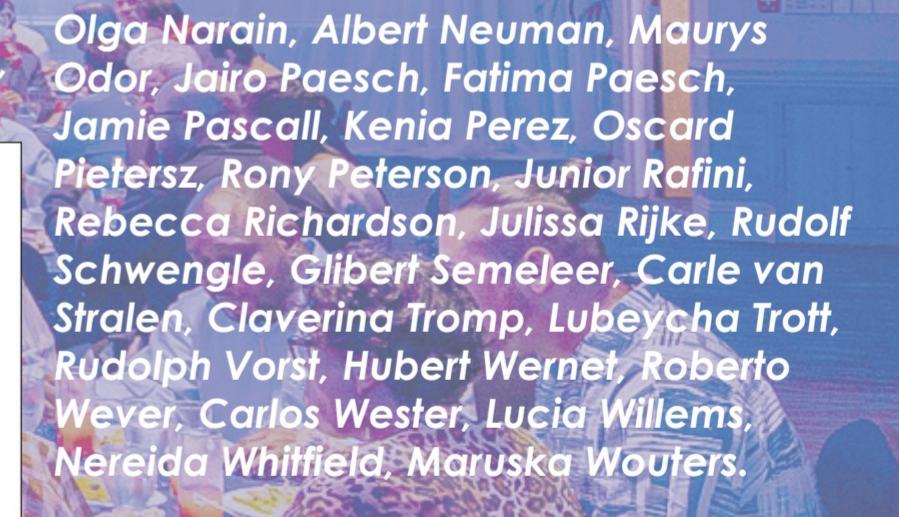
PERFECT ATTENDANCE



PERFECT ATTENDANCE



PERFECT ATTENDANCE



Perfect Attendance: Shirley Adamus, Ricardo Arends, Robert Bareño, Evan Boson, Susan Celaire, Mayra Cole, Sandra Croes, Michaud Daal, Richard Dania, Shurayma Dania, Patrick Figaroa, Melinda Hassel, Richard Jacobs, Antonio Jermin, Josselin in Joseph, Javier Kock, Marina Kock, Brunildo Kruyhoff, Meliain Loefstop, Carlos Maduro, Jason Maduro, Kelvin Maduro, Olga Narain, Albert Neuman, Maurys Odor, Jairo Paesch, Fatima Paesch, Jamie Pascall, Kenia Perez, Oscar Pietersz, Rony Peterson, Junior Rafini, Rebecca Richardson, Julissa Rijke, Rudolf Schwengle, Glibert Semeleer, Carle van Stralen, Claverina Tromp, Lubeycha Trott, Rudolph Vorst, Hubert Wernet, Roberto Wever, Carlos Wester, Lucia Willems, Nereida Whitfield, Maruska Wouters.

ORANJESTAD - Every year Alhambra Casino and Shops celebrates and honors its distinguished employees. After not being able to celebrate this last year due to Covid related protocols, this year it was organized at Alhambra Casino Ballroom, with a red carpet to welcome all the honored employees.

Marketing Manager of Alhambra Casino and Shops Ms. Annie Dirksz kicked off the program with her speech in which she welcomed all employees, invited guests and the management team of Treasure Bay Corporate Team who was also present. All guests were able to enjoy a delicious lunch prepared by the Alhambra Culinary Team and prepared their stomachs for the official ceremony.

To start the official ceremony, Sr. Jan ten Have, director of operations, gave everyone present his speech of how the year unfolded, followed by Ms. Susan Varnes who is president and COO of

Treasure Bay, LLC who thanked everyone present for their attention and loyalty to the company during the past year. After this, the "Anniversary Award" ceremony started, in which the employees were honored and recognized for their years of service.

After handing the certificates of anniversary, the recognition of the employees continued with a recognition for "Perfect Attendance" during the year of 2021. There were 46 employees honored for their dedicated effort.

As per usual, the suspense of "Star of the Year" is saved for last. In this category, Ms. Mayra Cole was recognized and honored as "Star Crew member of 2021" and Sr. Robert Bareño was recognized and honored as "Star Supervisor of 2021". Both employees received their recognition from Sr. Jan ten Have.

In this manner, Alhambra Casino and Shops honored and thanked all of its employees. □

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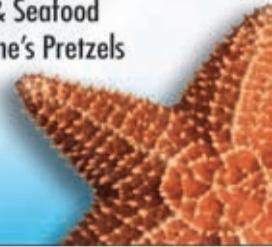
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Inflation drives up Passover food prices for U.S. Jews

By LUIS ANDRES HENAO and
MAE ANDERSON
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Shopping for Passover on a recent day at a kosher supermarket in the Hasidic Jewish section of Brooklyn's Williamsburg neighborhood, Moshe Werzberger worried about how inflation is driving up prices during one of the most important holidays for Jews.

"It affects us very much," said the 23-year-old, who recently canceled plans to vacation in Florida with his wife and 2-year-old son because of skyrocketing prices. Inflation has become a main topic of debate for worshippers at his synagogue and also in his extended family as they share the celebratory Passover meals, Seders.

"It just keeps on going up and up ..." he said as announcements rang out in Yiddish on the store's intercom. "And at some point it's going to have to stop, or no one is going to be able to afford to go shopping." As households feel the squeeze of surging consumer prices, some U.S. Jewish families observing Passover have struggled to pay for eggs, gefilte fish and the unleavened bread known as matzo, which represents their ancestors' exodus from slavery in Egypt.



Moshe Werzberger shops for Passover food and other groceries at a kosher supermarket in the Hasidic Jewish section of Brooklyn's Williamsburg neighborhood in New York on April 19, 2022.

Associated Press

The need is so great that the Met Council, which runs the country's largest kosher food pantry, expects to supply a record of nearly 3 million pounds of food in Passover packages and \$500,000 in emergency food cards among the Jewish community in greater New York City and New Jersey.

"We've been doing charitable work for 50 years, and we've never seen anything like this," said David Greenfield, the council's executive director. He added that there's "no question" that hundreds of thou-

sands of families are eating less meat during Passover, which this year falls from April 15 to 23.

Grocery prices rose 10% in March on a year-on-year basis — the most in 41 years — driven by higher prices for poultry, fish, eggs, beef and other meats.

The reasons for the surge vary: supply chain snags, unfavorable weather and rising energy prices. The latter, driven by Russia's war against Ukraine, pushed wholesale prices up a record 11.2% last month from a year earlier. Transportation problems are weighing

on food imports, particularly seeds and other items that produce oils.

The only thing likely to put a dent in inflationary pressures is the Federal Reserve cutting interest rates, said Laura Veldkamp, a professor of finance and economics at Columbia University. But families suffering sticker shock from shopping for Seders can't expect a respite anytime soon.

"Last year there were a number of government subsidies and programs that people were able to tap into," said Yitzv Weinberg, executive director of

Flatbush Community Fund, a Brooklyn-based charity. "But this year the COVID subsidies are over, and between that and inflation, it was a double whammy that hit working families when they needed it the most."

Weinberg's organization has distributed food, grocery cards and checks to more than 1,100 families this Passover, up from 850 last year.

Diana Kogan, director of Caring for Jews in Need, an initiative of the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, said inflation and shortages have been "a huge issue" for Jewish groups in Southern California that provide holiday food packages to vulnerable communities including older adults, Holocaust survivors and people without housing.

"Kosher meat, kosher chicken in particular, has been an issue," she said. "Chicken used to be \$1.89 per pound. But this year it's over \$3 a pound. We've also seen a 20% to 30% increase in kosher food prices."

Kogan said groups such as Jewish Family Service of LA and Tomchei LA have been stockpiling food since before Passover, buying items when they are on sale. But that has created a need for storage space, freezers and generators. □

American Express profits fall slightly, but spending jumps

By KEN SWEET
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — American Express' first-quarter profits fell roughly 6% from a year earlier, but the company saw a 30% jump in spending on its namesake cards in the quarter as its cardmembers returned to their habits of shopping, traveling and dining.

The New York-based company posted a profit of \$2.1 billion, or \$2.73 a share, down from \$2.24 billion, or \$2.74 a share, a year earlier. Last year's results had a one-time boost to AmEx's results, as the company re-

leased some reserves that it had set aside to cover potential losses earlier in the pandemic.

"Our strong first-quarter results demonstrated the continued business momentum we've achieved over the last several quarters despite the uncertain macro environment," AmEx CEO Steve Squeri said in a statement.

Travel and entertainment companies have been saying for months that U.S. consumers are eager to get back to traveling after the two-year coronavirus pandemic, and gauging

from American Express' results, this appears to be true. Cardmembers spent \$350 billion on their AmEx cards in the quarter, up 30% from a year earlier. The average AmEx card holder spent nearly \$6,000 on their accounts last quarter, up 27% from a year earlier.

AmEx said March spending on its cards was an all-time high for the company, while January was quieter reflecting the spread of the omicron variant that impacted much of the world at the beginning of the year. "Travel and entertainment demand roared into



This Aug. 11, 2019, photo shows an American Express card in New Orleans.

Associated Press

March and has continued into April," said AmEx Chief Financial Officer Jeffrey Campbell, in an interview. Travel spending is still down from 2019 levels, but has mostly recovered from the pandemic, according to AmEx's results. The company said it expects T&E

spending to accelerate in the second half of the year, as more countries open up travel and people return to pre-pandemic habits. AmEx also reaffirmed its full-year profit guidance, saying it expects to post earnings of between \$9.25 and \$9.65 a share for 2022. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 39 Silent

1 Luminous okays
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further perhaps

11 Halloween hue

12 Aerobatics feat

13 French soup

14 Olympics sled

15 Radiates

16 "Return of the Jedi" villain

17 Hamlet, for one

18 Waco school

19 Isn't well

21 Print units

22 Blue hue

25 Take in

26 Coffee dis-

pensers

27 Deodorant target

29 Reckless

33 Horse sound

34 Racer Andretti

35 Possess

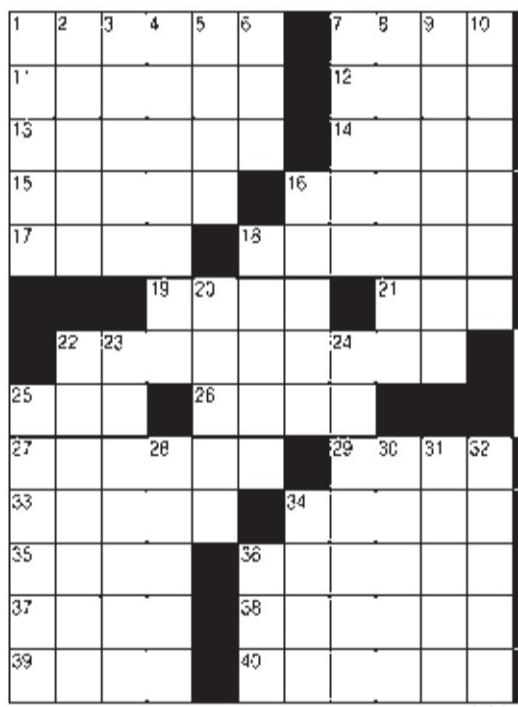
36 Truck fuel

37 Midmonth day

38 Smitten



Yesterday's answer



4-23

AXYDI, BAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-23 CRYPTOQUOTE

B FYDMNCT UIYPF UINBC PSNG
Y KW LNG ZKBGC CJNNE MG
PSYEN FSBWN CSNT OGYP CSNT
FSBKK GNANJ FMC. — UINNO

ZYANJQ

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WHEN I FIRST LOOKED BACK AT THE EARTH, STANDING ON THE MOON, I CRIED. — ALAN SHEPPARD

Cleaner Earth: Healing ozone hole, less smog, more eagles



A squadron of brown pelicans glides over the ocean waves off Sandbridge beach in Virginia Beach, Va., in 2019.

Associated Press

By SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

With climate change, plastic pollution and a potential sixth mass extinction, humanity has made some incredible messes in the world.

But when people, political factions and nations have pulled together, they have also cleaned up some of those human-caused environmental problems, including healing the ozone hole, clearing perpetually smoggy air and saving many species from the brink of extinction.

For Earth Day, The Associated Press asked more than 25 environmental scientists and policy experts, including two former U.S. Environmental Protection Agency chiefs and the current director of the United Nations Environment Programme, to share their top stories about environmental problems that the world fixed.

"There are some amazing success stories," said Stanford University environmental scientist Rob Jackson. "It's easy for us to get tunnel vision with everything going wrong, and there is a

lot that needs to change quickly. But it's wonderful to remind ourselves that other people in the past have succeeded and that society has succeeded too, both nationally here in the U.S. and also internationally."

Here are the four successes mentioned most often and a key aspect that so many ecological wins have in common.

HEALING THE OZONE HOLE

Fixing ozone depletion was by far the top choice of scientists, officials and environmental policy experts. "It was a moment where countries that usually compete with each other grasped the collective threat and decided to implement a solution," former EPA chief Carol Browner said in an email.

Scientists in the 1970s had discovered that a certain class of chemicals, often used in aerosol sprays and refrigeration, was eating away the protective ozone layer in Earth's atmosphere that shields the planet from harmful ultraviolet radiation linked to skin cancer.

The ozone layer was thinning everywhere, creating

a hole over Antarctica, which not only threatened increased skin cancer cases, but cataracts and widespread changes to ecosystems around the globe, said University of North Carolina atmospheric scientist Jason West.

"It's the first time we created a planet-killing problem and then we turned around and solved it," Stanford's Jackson said.

In 1987, the countries of the world signed the Montreal Protocol, a first of its kind treaty that banned the ozone-munching chemicals.

At this point every nation in the world has adopted the treaty, 99% of the ozone-depleting chemicals have been phased out, "saving 2 million people every year from skin cancer," United Nations Environment Programme Director Inger Andersen said in an email.

The ozone hole over Antarctica worsened for a couple decades, but over the last several years it has slowly started to heal in fits and spurts.

The United Nations Environment Programme projects that the ozone "will heal completely by the 2030s." While activists point to the Montreal Protocol as a hope and example for the fight against climate change, it's not quite the same.

In the case of the banned ozone-sapping chemicals the corporations that manufactured them also made their replacements. But with climate change "it's more of an existential threat to the oil and gas companies," Jackson said.

CLEANER AIR AND WATER

In the United States and much of the industrialized world, the air is much cleaner and clearer than it was 50 or 60 years ago when major cities like Los Angeles were choked with smog and even more dangerous microscopic particles in the air.

And lakes and rivers were dumping grounds, especially around Ohio, Michigan and Canada. □

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Julia Roberts returns to TV in Watergate-era series 'Gaslit'

By ALICIA RANCILIO
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Julia Roberts says she was so gleeful at the sight of Sean Penn arriving on the set of their TV series "Gaslit," she nearly caused a wardrobe malfunction.

"He came in full hair, make-up and costume, and I was so excited I ran to hug him and I was running with such velocity that between my body pad and his body pad, I just kind of bounced off of him, I can't believe that his head didn't come off apart from his costume," said Roberts. "We were laughing so hard."

Penn plays John Mitchell, the former attorney general under Richard Nixon. Roberts is his wife, Martha Mitchell, known as "the mouth of the south," a regular on talk shows who would eavesdrop on her husband's phone conversations and tip off reporters with gossip about Washington's elite. Her loose lips were viewed as such a problem that her husband ordered security to keep her in a hotel room for 24 hours after the Watergate hotel break-in. Mitchell claimed they removed the phones and television and she was assaulted and injected with a tranquilizer to keep her from trying to leave. The ordeal was so traumatizing it led to her eventual breakdown and the end of the couple's marriage.

"Gaslit," debuting Sunday, isn't just another retelling of the Watergate scandal, but instead focuses on lesser-known stories from the era, like Martha Mitchell's. The show is based on the first season of the podcast "Slow Burn" hosted by Leon Neyfakh.

Roberts, who is also an executive producer, was interested in "the idea that we can dig into something that's a part of American history and show people things that they didn't know at all, or that they thought they knew but maybe they were wrong."

She feels protective of Mitchell's legacy and hopes viewers see beyond



This image released by Starz shows Julia Roberts as Martha Mitchell in a scene from "Gaslit," premiering April 24.

the exterior of the big personality.

"She had a stutter. She was dyslexic. She had a lot of anxiety talking in front of people, which you would never see when you watch any of the footage of her. She's so witty and quick and sharp, and she doesn't miss a beat. It's impossible to believe that she was nervous in front of people, and yet she really was. It really kind of crippled her, and I think it's one of the things that led her to drink excessively before some of these performances — because they really were performances — that really wasn't her personality deep down inside."

"Gaslit" also gives a literal voice to Maureen "Mo" Dean, the wife of White House counsel John Dean. Maureen Dean, a striking woman with blond hair, was a regular on camera during the Watergate

hearings, seated stoically and silently behind her husband as he testified.

Betty Gilpin portrays Maureen Dean in "Gaslit" (with Dan Stevens as John) and says she was surprised by her research of the series. "My dad was a huge Watergate-head and was obsessed with the hearings and would always tell me about how everyone was glued to the television. I was prepared to watch this thrilling series that I couldn't take my eyes away from." Instead she found: "It's the driest, most boring (thing) and just drones on."

"I feel like the cameraman was like, 'Look at this beautiful blonde. I'm going to frame her in because we got to keep the viewers.'" The Maureen Dean we see in "Gaslit" is much more than just a woman standing by her man, but an informed person with strong opinions on the administra-

tion who won't hesitate to check her husband's ego when necessary.

"Our show takes creative license, and it's not, you know, an exact transcript of what happened," said Gilpin, who also read the 1975 memoir "Mo: A Woman's View of Watergate" to prepare. "I wanted to honor the real Mo Dean, while also taking my own license and creating a three dimensional person." □

Associated Press



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BONDIA

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A magnifying glass is focused on a map of downtown Willemstad, highlighting the location of the Aruba Today and Bondia offices on Weststraat.

Downtown

Map labels include: High Rise Hotels, Weststraat, Scheepstraat, Schenkelstraat, Clayia G.F. Bellico Cross, Clayia G.J., Royal Plaza Mall, L.G. Smith Boulevard, and Bus terminal.

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Down Towns: T-wolves need lift in mood, production from star

By DAVE CAMPBELL

AP Sports Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Karl-Anthony Towns has long stated his contentment with contributing in a variety of ways to Minnesota's game, even if he's not taking — or making — many shots.

The problem for Towns and the Timberwolves is the three-time All-Star center also has stymied their success at times.

In four postseason games, including the play-in tournament victory that gave the Wolves the No. 7 seed in the Western Conference and this first-round matchup with Memphis, Towns has 19 fouls.

He spent 3:56 on the bench in the first half of the fourth quarter in Game 3 on Thursday night after picking up his fifth foul, the stretch when the Grizzlies completed their comeback from a 25-point late-third-quarter deficit and took the lead for good. They won 104-95 to take a 2-1 lead in the series.

"We're talking to him," coach Chris Finch said. "It's the offensive fouls that really are hurting us more than anything else. Those are the ones we've got to clean up."

Towns had three offensive fouls in Game 3, twice when he was setting a high screen.

"Even crashing from the outside, I've stopped that just to possibly take any idea of giving me a foul out," Towns said. "Just got



Minnesota Timberwolves center Karl-Anthony Towns complains about a call to referee James Capers (19) during the second half in Game 3 of the team's NBA basketball first-round playoff series against the Memphis Grizzlies on Thursday, April 21, 2022, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

to work through the adversity, honestly. That's really it."

Each time Towns was pulled after a foul, he brought a dark cloud of bad body language with him to the bench. His teammates are often quick to encourage him or lend an ear to his venting about the officiating, but in the seventh year of his career he ought to be well past letting frustration compound itself into another mistake.

His postgame answer to a question about keeping team spirits high in the wake of a devastating loss — "go home, drink some wine, and move on" — offered a sanguine perspective. His demeanor on the

court suggested otherwise. The previous two seasons were a wash for Towns, in light of the heartbreaking death of his mother from COVID-19, his own difficult bout with the virus and multiple injuries to boot. More roster churn and another change in coaches, from his confidant Ryan Saunders to the outsider Finch, added another layer of complexity.

This season has been so much smoother, with the best chemistry the team has had since Towns entered the league as the first pick in the 2015 draft. He has shown an increased awareness in the post, with the determination to confidently attack a smaller

opponent in the post complementing the skill to pass out of trouble to a teammate on a squad that led the NBA with an average of 14.8 made 3-pointers during the regular season. Then there's his own outside shooting prowess, proven anew when he won the 3-point contest during the All-Star weekend skills showcase.

Too often, though, Towns lets his emotions overshadow his talent.

Sometimes, he seems to be overcorrecting for past criticisms of him being too soft on the court, whether directing a taunting glare at the man guarding him following a dunk or going so hard at the basket he

has a whistle go against him instead of drawing the foul and getting to the line. Perhaps he just needs more time on the NBA's biggest stage. Including the play-in game, Towns has only nine postseason games on his resume. The Timberwolves are 3-6 in those games.

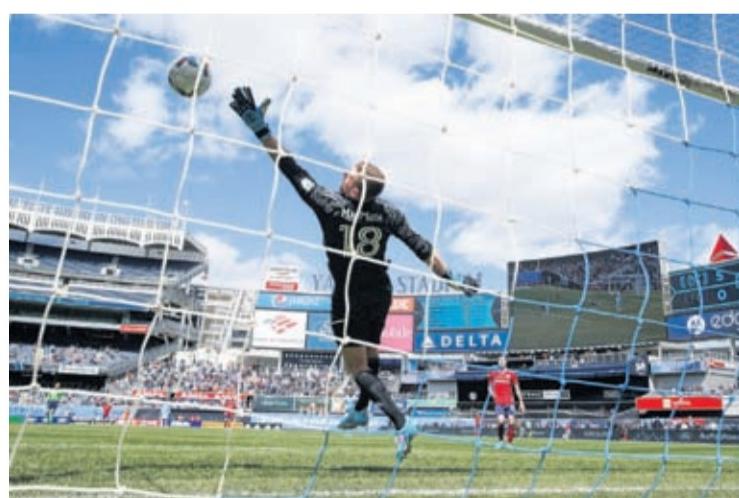
"KAT is the main piece of what we try to go on here. Obviously, when he's in foul trouble, it doesn't help us," teammate Patrick Beverley said.

In fairness to Towns, the rest of the Timberwolves were a letdown too.

When the Grizzlies were making their runs, the guards missed too many outside shots. Towns had five of the team's 11 blocks, a franchise playoff-game record, but the Grizzlies did plenty of damage in the paint when he wasn't in there. He also simply didn't get the ball enough, as evidenced by his paltry total of four field-goal attempts. "Next question," Towns snapped when asked about the lack of touches. He elaborated on the art of playing through the double teams a little later in his interview session.

The Grizzlies put Kyle Anderson on him to start the game and just might stick with that.

"Just trying to really take on the challenge," Anderson said. "Just use my length with him, try to force him to the basket where I have help and things like that. Just try to make it hard on him." □



Real Salt Lake goalkeeper Zac MacMath (18) receives a goal by New York City FC forward Valentin Castellanos (11) in the second half of an MLS soccer match at Yankee Stadium, Sunday, April 17, 2022, in New York.

Associated Press

MLS All-Star Game to pit league stars against LIGA MX

Major League Soccer's All-Star Game will again pit the league's best against their counterparts from Mexico's LIGA MX.

The game is set for Aug. 10 at Allianz Field, home of Minnesota United. The festivities that week will include a concert headlined by Khalid and a skills challenge, the league announced Thursday.

The MLS and LIGA MX All-Stars played to a 1-1 draw

last year before MLS prevailed on penalty kicks.

"Our partnership with LIGA MX has brought out the best in both leagues on and off the field, and I have no doubt the intensity will be even higher for the rematch in Minnesota," MLS Commissioner Don Garber said in a statement. "Beyond the game, All-Star Week will celebrate our sport with a series of cultural and community initia-

tives for the passionate soccer fans of the region."

The match will be broadcast by ESPN and Univision in the United States.

MLS will also introduce initiatives to reduce the environmental impact of the game, with a portion of the ticket proceeds allocated to sustainability efforts in the local community. Other programs surrounding the game will emphasize equity and inclusion. □

Cantlay and Schauffele open with 59 to lead Zurich Classic

AVONDALE, La. (AP) — Patrick Cantlay and Xander Schauffele are a good team even when they're playing for cash and not just a flag.

Cantlay holed a 25-foot eagle putt early and chipped in from 40 feet for birdie late, while Schauffele contributed six birdies of his own, and their three straight birdies to close gave them a 13-under 59 in fourballs Thursday to lead the Zurich Classic of New Orleans.

It set a tournament record since the Zurich Classic switched to team play in 2017, and the Presidents Cup and Ryder Cup partners were willing to claim a piece of golf's magic number.

"I haven't done it before. I don't think Pat has, either. I'll count in my book," Schauffele said.

They had a one-shot lead over the team of Matthew NeSmith and Taylor Moore. The group at 61 included Robert Garrigus and Tommy Gainey, and Aaron Rai and David Lipsky, two teams that have had their share of activity off the course.

Masters champion Scottie Scheffler and Ryan Palmer were five shots behind at 64.

The second round moves to foursomes, and while alternate is the more diffi-



Scottie Scheffler hits onto the 18th fairway during the first round of the PGA Zurich Classic golf tournament at TPC Louisiana in Avondale, La., Thursday, April 21, 2022.

Associated Press

cult of the format, Cantlay and Schauffele have put together a 4-0 mark in their partnerships at the 2019 Presidents Cup at Royal Melbourne and the 2021 Ryder Cup at Whistling Straits. "It's just the first quarter. We're only one ahead," Cantlay said. "But we are going into a format on Friday that we really like — I think Xander and I really like alternate shot. It's one of our strengths for the week, and we're really looking forward to it."

Moore was lucky to have much strength at all

He was in the emergency

room Wednesday morning from food poisoning, got some fluids and nausea medicine and finally was able to keep some food down Thursday morning. "Just tried to finish every hole," Moore said. "That was kind of a win within its own right." Lipsky avoided the hospital, though he was involved in a car accident earlier in the week. Turns out there was a car in front of him that had broken down, and as Lipsky went to change lanes he said the driver behind him slammed on the brakes and hit him.

"I'm all right. I think the other two drivers were fine," Lipsky said. "Yeah, I was a little bit of a hectic beginning to the week."

The surprise was Garrigus and Gainey, both sponsor exemptions, joining the group at 61. Garrigus was in the news earlier in the week when Golfweek reported and Golf Channel confirmed with Garrigus that he is applying for a conflicting event release to play in the first Saudi-funded LIV Golf competition.

The PGA Tour has until May 10 to decide whether to grant him a release to play

in London a week before the U.S. Open. The top players — that would not include Garrigus, whose world ranking is at No. 1,043 — have said they are not interested in the Greg Norman-run league offering a \$20 million purse and \$4 million to the winner.

Garrigus told Golf Channel that he was focused only on the Zurich Classic, and plenty of focus appeared to be in place. Gainey contributed six birdies, while Garrigus had five.

That was the trick on a windy day at the TPC Louisiana, both players contributing. Cantlay and Schauffele — who have gone on vacations together when they weren't representing their country in the cups — were extremely effective on the greens.

Only three of their 11 sub-par holes were from putts inside 10 feet.

"We played really well, made a lot of putts today on a day that was a little tricky with the wind and didn't birdie a lot of the same holes," Cantlay said. "When you do that in this format, that's really the key."

Equally impressive was the father-son duo of Jay and Bill Haas. The 68-year-old father had four of their seven birdies, three of them from the 15-foot range, in their 65. □

Fury keeps it light at weigh-in for title fight vs. Whyte

LONDON (AP) — The mood was light and so was Tyson Fury, who weighed in for his WBC heavyweight title defense against Dillian Whyte 12 pounds (more than five kilograms) lighter than his last fight.

Fury weighed 264.8 pounds (120kg) on Friday, a day before the all-British bout at Wembley Stadium.

Whyte tipped the scales at 253 1/4 pounds (114.8kg) — six pounds (nearly three kilos) heavier than his last fight.

During a downright friendly face-to-face — which underscored the 6-foot-9

Fury's significant height advantage — the men smiled and tickled each other before an earnest handshake and exchange of caps.

Fury (31-0-1, 22 KOs) promised it would be a different story on Saturday in front of more than 94,000 spectators in his second defense of the title he won in February 2020.

"Don't doubt us, we're going to put a show on, like no other before," Fury said. "It's going to be a war, don't worry about that."

Fury's weight was lighter than in both of his recent fights against Deontay

Wilder. The self-styled "Gypsy King" was 273 pounds (124kg) when he beat Wilder the first time and 277 pounds (nearly 126kg) last October for the trilogy bout.

The weigh-in continued what has been a relatively low-key buildup between the former sparring partners.

Whyte (28-2, 19 KOs) has largely secluded himself at his training camp in Portugal while leaving Fury to drum up interest in the past month.

Fury has suggested he'll retire after the fight, though



British heavyweight boxers Tyson Fury and Dillian Whyte pose as they take part in their weigh-in at the Boxpark Wembley venue, near Wembley Stadium, in London, Friday, April 22, 2022.

Associated Press

IBF and WBO crowns and is preparing for a rematch with Joshua after leaving his native Ukraine, where he was helping his country in the war with Russia. □

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SAVE
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SAVE
\$0.29

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\$1.42
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SAVE
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Slof Assorted
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SAVE
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